of them pupated in their tents. About five weeks later, I found that they had transformed and died within the web. *Hyphantria cunea* larvae feed inside the nest, and enlarge the nest when necessary to enclose fresh leaves.

ATTEVA PUNCTELLA FITCH.

Each year I get a rich infestation of these moths in my Ailanthus trees, (*Ailanthus altissima*). This moth spends all of its stages in the very thinly-spun nests that it makes. Silk is merely used to bind leaves together with large open spaces in between as a sort of cradle. The colonies within these aerial cradles are never large and often contain caterpillars of various sizes. In mid-August, for example, I found nests contained the following population:

Nest A. 1 large, 1 medium caterpillar.
Nest B. 1 pupa.
Nest C. 3 empty pupal cases.
Nest D. 5 caterpillars, various sizes, small to medium.
Nest E. 1 large caterpillar in a dead curled leaf.
Nest F. 1 large in a dead curled leaf.
Nest G. 2 small caterpillar, 1 pupa.
Nest H. 1 large, 1 medium, 1 small (large one curled up in leaf).
Nest I. 1 pupa, 2 large larvae.

One often finds (as shown above) the large caterpillars curled up among dead leaves which are fastened together with silk; this may be in preparation for transformation. One also often finds an adult moth in the nest, and oviposition no doubt occurs in the same aerial cradle in which the mother was born.

The caterpillars remain on the ailanthus leaves until the middle of September. The silken cradles at this time often become quite large. A little later the leaves fall to the ground, but by this time the insect is probably safely in hibernation; I do not know, however, in what stage this occurs.

A New Syrphid Fly from Louisiana (Diptera).

By L. VIGÉ, Lafayette, Louisiana.

Toxomerus jussiaeae n. sp.

This species differs from *T. geminata* Say and *T. occidentalis* Curran in that the process of the hind femur of the male arises more distally, being slightly more than half as long as the dis-

tance from its base to the trochanter, and forms a greater angle with the femur; the basal prominence is lacking; the tibiae are not broadly produced apically; the yellow of the front on each side in the female is usually shorter and always more acute superiorly; the female lacks black bands on the hind femora and tibiae; the scutellum is reddish-yellow, and there is a silvery white spot above the front coxa in both sexes.

Length —5.5 mm. to 6.5 mm.

♂. Face yellow, grayish-tinged especially laterally below the antennae and on and about the tubercle, generally covered with silvery pubescence; cheeks black behind. Antennae reddish-yellow, first and second segments with distinct black hairs, third segment ferrugineous above and apically; arista black. Vertical triangle broad, black with rusty pollen and black hairs. Pile of front light; black hairs near the base of the antennae above and laterally. Eyes between vertical and frontal triangles less approximate and for a shorter distance than in either *T. geminata* or *T. occidentalis,* a distinct shining black spot at this point. Posterior orbits gray with white pile below the emargination of eye, rusty pile above.

Thorax greenish-rusty above, median cinerous line distinct throughout, lateral cinerous lines less conspicuous, yellow lateral margins complete; pleura black, gray pollinose, yellow at caudal portion of mesopleura much broader superiorly where it joins the yellow of the anterior superior part of the pteropleura, a silvery white spot on the sternopleura just below the yellow of the mesopleura, a similar but less distinct silvery spot above the front coxa.

Legs: front and middle coxae black, yellow apically; hind coxae mainly yellow, dark basally; all trochanters yellow; first and second femora yellow basally and apically, the main portion dark or black; hind femora arcuate, yellow at base, reddish apically, the main portion dark or black; the process long, dark, more remote from the base of the femur than in *T. geminata* or *T. occidentalis,* lacks the stout base, is distinctly curved and forms a greater angle with the femur; first and second tibiae and tarsi yellow, hairs mainly black; hind tibiae dark-red, normal apically (not dilated); hind tarsus with black hairs dorsally and yellow hairs ventrally, last two segments black.

Wings hyaline; stigma brown, color continued basally between the auxiliary and the first longitudinal veins.

Abdomen predominantly reddish-yellow; first segment black above, edges narrowly yellow; second segment black, a light median fascia broadest at the edges and interrupted; third and fourth segments each with a black fascia apically, semi-interrupted, and a median, black, geminate vitta (this may be reduced to mere spots); fifth segment with anterior median and two caudal lateral black spots (these represented by a median vitta joining a caudal fascia in some specimens and by spots or a median spot only in others). Two males, evidently quite young, lack practically all the black markings.

♀. Face with a black stripe descending from the front around each antenna and tapering on either side of the tubercle to its lower level, infuscate, especially above the oral margins and bordering the eyes. Antennae as in the male, third segment more generally ferrugineous. Front broad, black, black pile; yellow as follows—a usually short, triangular, lateral marking, acute above, ascends on each side from the yellow of the face, the yellow marking usually shorter and always more pointed at the top than in either *T. geminata* or *T. occidentalis.* Posterior orbits lighter than in the male medially.

Legs more yellowish than in the male; hind femora and tibiae less arcuate than in the male and lacking the characteristic black bands of *T. geminata* and *T. occidentalis.*

Abdomenal markings as in the male except on the fifth and sixth segments, each of which has a distinct black fascia apically and usually a single, median, black vitta.

Holotype: male, Evangeline Parish, Louisiana, May 8, 1938. *Allotype:* female, same locality and date.

Paratypes, 25 males and 25 females, all from Lousiana as follows—Evangeline Parish (May 30, 1937, 5♂, 3♀; June 26, 2♂; July 20, 1♂, 1♀; August 28, 1♀; September 13, 3♀; April, 1938, 1♂ 1♀; April 24, 3♂, 2♀; May 8, 2♂, 2♀). St. Landry Parish (May 15, 1938, 3♂, 2♀). East Baton Rouge Parish (June 16, 1937, 2♂, 2♀; June 27, 2♀; July 3, 1♂, 2♀; July 6, 1♂, 1♀; July 26, 1♀; August 7, 4♂, 2♀).

All the specimens collected by the author. They were all associated with one weed, *Jussiaea diffusa,* which grows in ponds and ditches.

The types were collected while in copulation. They were sent to the American Museum of Natural History, New York, N. Y.